

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend original paragraph [0026] to read as follows (strike-out denotes deleted language and underlining indicates added language):

-- [0026] Instead of operating the locking device 160 by use of only the manufacturer provided key mechanism, as the original design of the external unit, the security system 100 controls the operation of the locking device 160 by first checking for an electronic key to be used with the key detecting unit 110. The key detecting unit 110 reads the electronic key to detect a programmed identification code within the electronic key. Once the programmed identification code has been detected, the key detecting unit 110 sends a signal to the control unit 130 indicating that the proper identification code has been detected. Then the control unit 130 sends a signal through a bi-directional line 150 to the locking component 120, which in turn will allow the locking device 160 to be operated by the manufacturer provided key for a predetermined amount of time. If the manufacturer provided key is not used to operate the locking device 160 within the predetermined amount of time, the control unit 130 receives a signal back from the locking component 120 indicating that the manufacturer provided key has not been used with the locking device 160. Then the control unit 130 controls the locking component 120 through the bi-directional line 150 to stop the locking device 160 from being operated by the manufacturer provided key. However, if the manufacturer provided key is used to operate the locking device 160 within the predetermined amount of time, the control unit 130 receives a signal from the locking component 120, through the bi-directional line 150, indicating that the manufacturer provided key has not been used with the locking device 160, at which time the control unit 130 controls the locking component 120, through the bi-directional line 150, to continue to enable the locking device 160 to be operated by the manufacturer provided key for as long as the manufacturer provided key is used to access the locking device 160 of the compartment area. Although this embodiment describes the key detecting unit 110 as one unit to detect an electronic key, the key detecting unit 110 may contain plural detection units to detect plural corresponding electronic keys, as will be described in more detail with respect to FIG. 7. Further, a local key may be used which may be one of an electronic key, another electronic key and a manual key. --